

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Draft Policy for Financial Assistance for Charitable or Not for Profit Community Organisations for Waste Disposal at Kimbriki

Impact level: Three

Consultation period: 23 April 2021 to 23 May 2021

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1. Summary¹

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the Draft Policy for Financial Assistance for Charitable or Not for Profit Community Organisations for Waste Disposal at Kimbriki project from 23 April 2021 to 23 May 2021.

During the consultation we heard from both not for profit (NFP) community organisations and residents of the Northern Beaches.

Of the 19 submissions received, 11 were fully supportive of the draft policy. The main reason was that NFP organisations and community groups would continue to benefit from the financial assistance. Supportive submissions were received from both NFP organisations and Northern Beaches residents.

Three submissions were supportive of the draft policy but included suggested amendments relating to the \$2000 cap per organisation and special Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) exemptions. One submission indicated a neutral sentiment toward the draft policy but had concerns about possible misuse. Four submissions indicated that they were not supportive of the draft policy. Concerns were flagged about administrative costs and the potential for an unfair distribution of financial assistance.

1.1. Key outcomes

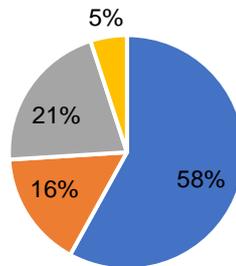


Total online Your Say submissions received²

19



Sentiment



- Support
- Support with changes or Changes requested
- Don't support
- Neutral/undetermined



Feedback themes

Budget and cap

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) exemptions

Unfair distribution of funds

Sorting of waste

Misuse

¹ Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.

² This number does not include late submissions.

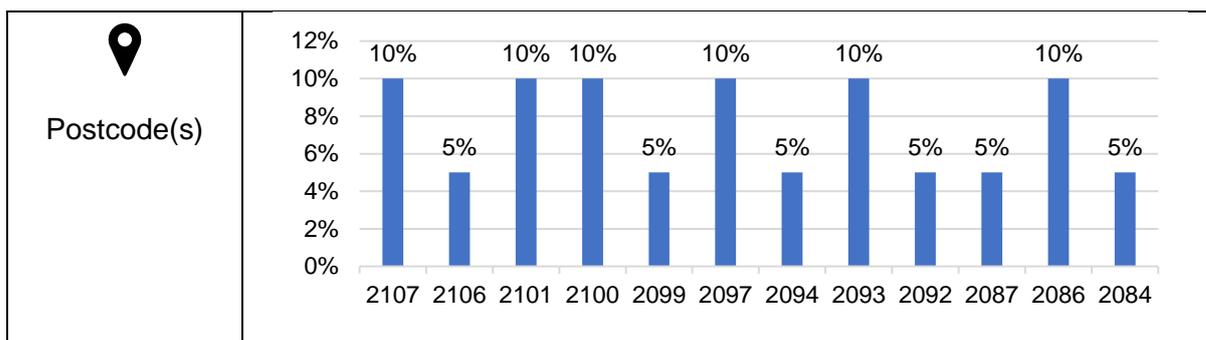
1.2. How we engaged

 Have Your Say	Visitors: 925	Visits: 1028	Av. time onsite: 1m08s
 Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement (fortnightly) newsletter: 2	Distribution: 20,000 subscribers	
	Council (weekly) E-News: 1	Distribution: 150,000 subscribers	
	Religious and Cultural Leaders Newsletter: 1	Distribution: 168 subscribers	
	Stakeholder email: 2	Distribution: 62	

1.3. Who responded³

Interest		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Charitable/Not for profit organisation representative ■ Northern Beaches Resident ■ Other
Gender		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Male ■ Female ■ Other id. ■ N/A
Age group(s)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <25 yrs ■ 26-50 yrs ■ 51-75 yrs ■ 76+ yrs ■ N/A

³ Demographic data was gathered by request only. The data represented only includes those respondents who provided this detail.



2. Background

This report outlines the community and stakeholder engagement conducted as part of the public exhibition of the Draft Policy for Financial Assistance for Charitable or Not for Profit Community Organisations for Waste Disposal at Kimbriki.

The Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre is operated by an independent company. All customers, including Council, charitable and community organisations, must pay the gate (disposal) fees to Kimbriki when disposing waste.

Eligible charitable and community organisations that dispose of their waste at Kimbriki may request financial assistance from Council to pay their disposal fee.

Requests to Council are currently assessed under policies of the former Warringah and former Pittwater Councils. Former Manly Council did not have an equivalent policy.

We have developed the Draft Policy for Financial Assistance for Charitable or Not for Profit Community Organisations for Waste Disposal at Kimbriki to harmonise these policies and to enable a fairer and more equitable approach across the Northern Beaches.

3. Engagement objectives

- Objective 1: build community and stakeholder awareness of participation activities (inform)
- Objective 2: provide accessible information so community and stakeholders can participate in a meaningful way (inform)
- Objective 3: identify community and stakeholder concerns, local knowledge and values (consult)

4. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Draft Policy for Financial Assistance for Charitable or Not for Profit Community Organisations for Waste Disposal at Kimbriki was conducted over a four-week period, from 23 April 2021 to 23 May 2021, and consisted of a series of activities that provided opportunities and platforms for community and stakeholders to contribute.

The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's [Community Engagement Matrix](#) (2017).

A project page⁴ was established on our have your say platform with information provided in an accessible and easy to read format.

The project was primarily promoted through stakeholder notifications and our regular email newsletter (EDM) channels.

Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the have your say project page. The form included a question that directly asked respondents for their level of support on the draft policy.

An open-field comments box provided community members a space to explain or elaborate on their support, lack of support or neutral sentiment as well as any other feedback they wished to contribute.

Email and written comments were also invited. Contact details for the project manager were provided should anyone have a question.

It was determined for this project that it was particularly important to hear from not for profit organisations and community groups. We promoted the consultation in our Religious and Cultural Leaders Newsletter and sent a direct email notification to our list of not for profit community organisations on the Northern Beaches.

5. Findings

Of the 19 submissions received, 11 were fully supportive of the draft policy. The main reason was that NFP organisations and community groups would continue to benefit from the financial assistance. Supportive submissions were received from both NFP organisations and Northern Beaches residents.

Three submissions were supportive of the draft policy but included suggested amendments relating to the budget cap and special exemptions.

One submission indicated a neutral sentiment toward the draft policy but had concerns about possible misuse such as waste coming from outside the Northern Beaches.

Four submissions indicated that they were not supportive of the draft policy. Concerns were flagged about administrative costs and the potential for an unfair distribution of financial assistance. There were also concerns raised about residential waste services which were out of scope and will be addressed separately by the project team.

Suggestions and concerns regarding the draft policy are discussed in the table below.

Table 1: Feedback that identified suggestions and concerns regarding the draft policy

Theme	What we heard	Council's response
Budget and cap	This is a restriction on charities and tipping should be free.	This is unsustainable without some controls. The policy intends to make a fair and equitable access to support from Council.

⁴ <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/financial-assistance-charitiesnfps-waste-disposal-kimbriki>

	<p>The budget will be consumed by eight larger organisations like Clean Up Australia.</p> <p>Council needs to reduce the \$2000 cap to allow more organisations to benefit from this policy.</p> <p>The policy should include the ability to extend the cap based on special circumstances.</p>	<p>Clean Up Australia is tipped under a separate arrangement with the EPA and would not be covered under this policy. The policy is not limited to eight organisations. There needs to be a cap to ensure equity of access, but in practice the general use over the last couple of years has been less than one tonne per visit, or around \$300. The policy will be reviewed in September 2024, including the number and type of organisations taking advantage of the policy.</p> <p>The cap does not define the number of users. For example, if each organisation only used \$500, then 32 organisations could access the financial assistance. The cap was chosen to provide equity of access to a variety of charitable organisations. The cap allows smaller organisations access while also allowing limited access to larger organisations without consuming the full budget.</p> <p>The cap provides for approximately ten tonnes of material to be tipped, which would cover most circumstances. The policy puts constraints around the extent of subsidy to avoid subjective decisions and potential unfair application of subsidy. There are separate arrangements available, via EPA exemptions for example,</p>
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		for instances of natural disaster like fire or flood.
EPA exemption	<p>The EPA exemption should not be required as it may be not be worth it administratively for some organisations.</p> <p>The policy should accommodate Rural Fire Service (RFS).</p>	<p>The EPA exemption should not prove difficult to obtain for smaller charitable organisations or NFPs.</p> <p>The RFS should be eligible to obtain a NSW EPA levy exemption and so be able to make use of the policy.</p>
Sorting of waste	Sorting of waste for recycling should not be required.	The sorting of material keeps the cost down as well as keeping material out of landfill which can be recycled.
Misuse	<p>We should not publicise the policy to avoid misuse.</p> <p>We need assurance that the waste is from the Northern Beaches and not from other areas.</p>	<p>Misuse should be avoided by the requirement to hold a NSW EPA levy exemption for charitable /NFP organisations, and other constraints within the policy</p> <p>The policy states that waste must be from the Northern Beaches area. In practice, it will be difficult to determine the origin of waste tipped under the policy. Council can require applying organisations to make a declaration regarding the origin of the material to be disposed.</p>
Access ⁵	Include residents of social housing in the policy	All residents including residents of social housing properties are entitled to the same waste services

⁵ Following the public exhibition, we received a submission from an NFP organisation regarding access for residents of social housing. While this submission has not been included in the reported Your Say submission numbers, we have chosen to include the theme in the table along with the response.

		<p>as all residential properties, including bulky goods clean up. If additional services are required, the NSW Department of Housing are the appropriate authority to make those decisions.</p> <p>The policy is designed to support local not for profit and charitable organisations rather than provide further waste services to residential properties.</p>
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Appendix 1 Verbatim community and stakeholder responses*

Number	Comment/submission ⁶
1	On behalf of The Peninsula Seniors Toy Repairers I think it is a very good proposal.
2	As a Scouts Australia District Commissioner for the Northern Beaches, I feel that Financial Assistance for Scouts Australia (amongst other organisations) would be most beneficial. Organisations such as Scouts Australia rely on financial donations and registration fees from its members in order to continue. Financial Assistance from Council would be most welcome.
3	As a not for profit community preschool, when disposal of broken equipment, or disposal of old sand, vegetation etc is required, our preschool is having to fundraise, or take funds from other areas to cover for the cost of tip fees. Families, who are already paying fees to attend the preschool, sometimes take the equipment etc to the tip for us and cover the cost of the tip fees themselves. Providing financial assistance will allow the preschool to use more funds for the education of children and will also allow us to reimburse the families who are helping with the disposal of the equipment etc
4	I feel the \$2000 pa for organisations could be reduced to \$1000 so more organisations could be included in the council max, of \$16000
5	<p>Councils used to provide garbage collection and tip services gratis for ratepayers. Charities were recognised as social services to the poor.</p> <p>Then council services were outsourced and garbage collection and tips became profit centres. Now we want to rip off charities.</p> <p>The former Warringah Council Policy MUST be extended to all of Northern beaches. The term "subsidies" is totally misleading as these services should be included in our rates anyway. Ripping off charities in this way and calling it a subsidy is disgusting.</p> <p>I totally reject the proposed policy.</p>

*Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.

⁶ Three of the 19 online Your Say submissions do not appear in this table as the respondent only answered the sentiment question and did not provide further comment.

6	<p>Recently I took a box trailer load of household waste to Kimbriki tip. I also had some bags of clothing I was told you had a collection point for.</p> <p>On the way out I was charged \$80 for the load. I am a pensioner and have lived in Frenchs Forest since 1976 and it has always been free to residents. We have virtually no street frontage and when the old fashioned council cleanups occurred I could put our rubbish in their piles. The new system means I have to dump surplus goods outside of our neighbors. I find it amazing that you are charging residents to dump at the tips we have used since last century for free.</p> <p>The Council is supposed to be finding ways to make life better for residents - not worse.</p>
7	Well done Council - great idea
8	There should be equity with all the old northern beaches councils ie. The new amalgamated Northern Beaches Council .
9	<p>While I support the need to provide assistance to charities and NFPs, the administrative costs of implementing the policy will far out weigh any possible benefit particularly if the total annual allowance is capped at \$16,000.</p> <p>If it were to proceed the conditions for eligibility must be significantly stream-lined including by not requiring an exemption under other State legislation. A charity or NFP can very easily demonstrate their status so this should be sufficient to obtain the very modest amount of support. Similarly requiring extensive pre-sorting will significantly increase the cost of disposal and again out-weigh any benefit derived from the tipping fees.</p>
10	<p>The whole of council annual budget cap seems very very low (if I understand it correctly).</p> <p>There should still be the ability for council discretion to extend the annual subsidy cap per eligible organisation, based on the size of the organisation and in times of special need (say a flood where a lot of carpet & furniture may need to be disposed of).</p>
11	The policy should also accommodate the NSW Rural Fire Service Brigades on the Northern Beaches. Our brigade and others in the district currently have to pay to dispose of rubbish at the tip using funds donated by the community which could otherwise have been put to better use. It would be nice if brigades could dump the small amount of waste they generate for free like we could when the tip was run by Warringah Council before the private company was established. The brigades volunteers have always attended and extinguished fires at the tip for free, it would be nice if the tip would allow waste to be dropped off by brigades at no charge.
12	Yes I agree with the policy, the budget and the objective to provide more transparency and a standard approach to such organizations
13	I agree with the principal but I have concerns, If this does get passed, do not inform the public as I believe more people/grubs will use the outlets to dump their personal rubbish, which means they could/would be no better off.
14	<p>I am pleased to see that one of the provisions is that the waste to be dumped is to be collected from the Northern Beaches LGA.</p> <p>I have it on good authority that with the old system that operated under Warringah Council, the St V de Paul Charity were given booklets of tickets by Council for accessing the Kimbriki tip. As it was not costing the society any money for dumping their waste at Kimbriki, each week they would send a truck from the Central Coast depot loaded up with the waste generated by their organisation on the Central Coast, and transfer it into one of the collection trucks from the Northern Beaches to deliver it to Kimbriki, and there was no way the staff at Kimbriki, or Council would have known that without being informed by a disgruntled worker.</p> <p>While your new draft policy will provide up to \$2000.00 for St V De Paul and others, there is</p>

	<p>no way you can detect if they are bringing their waste from outside of the Northern Beaches LGA to be dumped here as it is being subsidised.</p> <p>How many other councils subsidise the charities at their tips?</p>
15	<p>Great idea to support the charities that support locals!</p> <p>While it seems sensible to have a cap per charity and overall, there could be an option for a one off or reasonable request (eg. If a charity such as Dalwood Jumble Sale were unable to continue post Covid there would be a lot of stuff to donate onward, and to go to waste disposal.)</p>
16	<p>Insufficient information.</p> <p>The proposed \$16k annual budget cap, divided by \$2k cap per "eligible organisation" suggests as few as just 8 organisations might benefit under the proposed scheme? Clean Up Australia and who else? Sounds potentially unfair and inequitable to me.</p> <p>So how many organisations benefited under the existing schemes, what was the average and highest subsidy for those organisations, and what was the total annual cost to the Council(s), budgeted or not?</p> <p>Is there any suggestion that the subsidy has been inappropriately claimed in the past?</p> <p>How difficult would it be for a small charity to get the referenced "NSW EPA 'Community Service Exemption' from the Section 88 Waste Levy"? Might that be a backdoor way to prevent smaller worthy organisations from accessing council assistance.</p>
17	<p>Thank you for this further opportunity to comment on the Kimbriki charity policy.</p> <p>As you know, Bridge Housing is a not-for-profit and could benefit from some additional assistance in relation to this policy. If you could raise the cap beyond \$2000 per organisation we could assist tenants to dispose of household items at a reduced cost and improve their liveability in their homes. The current \$2000 cap probably meets the requirements for a single household to access the tip if relocating.</p> <p>If this proposal is not supported, we are happy to advocate on behalf of our tenant community on the Northern Beaches, who we consider are the most vulnerable members of this community and request an offer of a discount for each social housing tenant living in the LGA.</p> <p>We know that relocating tenants and or supporting tenants to live safely in their own homes, free of clutter, can lead to high recharges for the removal and tipping of household items.</p> <p>Can this feedback be provided for consideration?</p> <p>It may be something that the Council wants to specifically offer to older tenants and or people with a disability and we could provide some details to consider these annual costs.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing the councils response and to discussing other opportunities to improve access for vulnerable members of the community to the tipping services.</p>

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